

REMARKS

Claims 6-12 are pending in this application, of which claim 9 has been amended. Claims 1-5 and 13 have been canceled. Claims 6-8 are withdrawn from consideration. No new claims have been added.

The Examiner has maintained from the previous Office Action the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejections of claims 9-10 and 12 as anticipated of Yamaguchi.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Yamaguchi discloses, as shown in FIG. 1, a laminated composite electronic device comprising a first ceramic portion (7, 7', a, b, c, d) comprising one or more first layers (7, 7') and intermediate layers (a, b, c, d), each of said first layers (7, 7') comprising a first material (dielectric ceramic), and one or more circuit element patterns (8a, 8b) formed on a surface of said first layer; and a second ceramic portion (1, 1') provided on said first ceramic portion, said second ceramic portion (1, 1') comprising one or more second layers (1, 1'), each of said second layers comprising a ceramic material, a magnetic powder dispersed within said ceramic material, and one or more circuit element patterns (5a-5f, 6) formed on a surface of said second layer, wherein said one or more circuit element patterns provide an electronic circuit for performing a predetermined function, and said first ceramic portion is provided on said second ceramic portion to produce said laminated device, wherein said first ceramic portion and said second ceramic portion are directly joined to each other.

The Examiner has urged that in Yamaguchi each of the second layers (1, 1') included in the second ceramic portion is formed of the same first material as in the first layers (7, 7') included in the first ceramic portion. However, the first material of the first layers (7, 7') included in the first ceramic portion is dielectric ceramic, while a material of the second layers (1, 1') included in the second ceramic portion is ceramic that does not contain a dielectric or magnetic body. Thus, the first and second layers are different in material. Each of the second layers (1, 1') included in the second ceramic portion is formed with magnetic ceramic, and the magnetic ceramic is produced by dispersing a magnetic material in the ceramic (col. 4, lines 7-14).

In the present invention, the first layers of the first ceramic portion and the second layers of the second ceramic portion are in contact with each other. In contrast, in Yamaguchi the intermediate layers (a, b, c, d) of the first ceramic portion and the second layers (1, 1') of the second ceramic portion are in contact with each other. The first layers (7, 7') of the first ceramic portion and the second layers (1, 1') of the second ceramic portion are not in contact with each other.

Further, the present invention is advantageous in that the above construction permits the first ceramic portion to be joined to the second ceramic portion without any problems of deflection, separation, or cracking. In Yamaguchi, on the other hand, in order to prevent deformation such as warpage and cracking when the first ceramic portion [1, 1'] is joined to the second ceramic portion [7, 7'], intermediate layers a-d having thermal expansion rates differing

from each other need to be inserted therebetween. Accordingly, Yamaguchi does not provide the advantage of the present invention.

Yamaguchi also fails to disclose a green sheet for forming the second ceramic portion recited in claim 13 of the present invention, that is, a green sheet including a layer including a first material and discrete portions distributed on a surface thereof including a second material different from the first material.

Furthermore, in the Preliminary Amendment filed April 25, 2005, claim 9 was amended to recite that the “first ceramic portion and the second ceramic portion are directly joined to each other.”

The Examiner has urged, however, that the first and second ceramic portions are directly joined to each other through lamination (emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully disagree. As noted above, the ceramic layer portions 1, 1' and 7, 7' are separated from each other by intermediate ceramic layers a, b, c, d, which is distinct from being “directly joined,” as in the present invention.

However, in order to clarify this distinction, claim 9 has been amended to recite that “one of said first layers of said first ceramic portion and one of said second layers of said second ceramic portion are directly stacked on each other.”

In an interview conducted with the Examiner on October 11, 2005, the Examiner indicated that the arguments presented above would overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejections. She also indicated that item 32 shown in FIG. 2, consisting of strip portions, may be a

distinguishable feature of the present invention. Accordingly, claim 9 has been amended to recite this feature.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejections of claims 9-10 and 12 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yamaguchi in view of Shouji (previously applied).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As noted in the response filed March 28, 2005, Shouji discloses a method for manufacturing a magnetic head assembly, which is a completely different field of endeavor than that of the present invention. Fig. 2A of Shouji shows thin film magnetic transducers 22 formed on a wafer 21. The wafer 21 is finally cut into separate magnetic heads as shown in Fig. 2F. Thus, Shouji fails to show a layer including a first material and discrete portions approximately uniformly distributed on a surface thereof, as recited in claim 11 of the instant application. Further, Shouji fails to disclose the features recited in claim 9, as amended, from which claim 11 depends.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 11 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.


In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 9-12, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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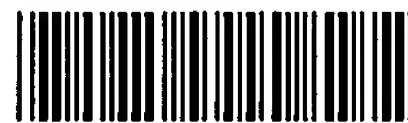
Atty. Docket No. 020175

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